

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] This invention relates generally to an apparatus for spraying liquids and more particularly to liquid sprayers ~~power washers~~ having multiple nozzles alternatively usable to control spray configuration.

Please replace paragraph [0004] with the following amended paragraph:

[0004] The wand will typically include an elongate tube having a proximal end and a distal end. At the proximal end, the wand includes a handle and valve assembly which is connected to the distal end of the hose. At the distal end of the tube, the wand will typically have a nozzle which controls the configuration of the spray. In order to provide a variety of spray configurations, multiple nozzles are often provided for the user. These nozzles are alternatively attachable to and removable from the distal end of the wand. Screw attachments are common but a quick release system is particularly ~~particular~~ advantageous. This quick release system typically includes a female connector permanently attached ~~attach~~ to the distal end of the wand, and multiple male couplings each attached to an associated nozzle.

Please replace paragraph [0021] with the following amended paragraph:

[00021] FIG. 7 is a ~~top plan~~ side elevation view taken along lines 7 – 7 of FIG. 2;

Please replace paragraph [0029] with the following amended paragraph:

[0029] A fluid spray apparatus or power washer is illustrated in Figure 1 and designated by the reference numeral 10. In this case, the apparatus 10 includes a pump 12 receiving water for example from a garden hose 14. An engine coupled to the pump 12 is carried on a portable cart 16 to facilitate portability of the apparatus 10. A delivery system 18 has an elongate configuration and includes a proximal end 21 and

distal end ~~22~~ 25. The proximal end 21 is coupled to the pump 23 where it is adapted to receive water under pressure. The distal end 25 of the delivery system 18 expels the pressurized water ~~pressurized~~ in a spray 25 having a predetermined spray configuration.

Please replace paragraph [0034] with the following amended paragraph:

[0034] At its distal end, the tube 38 can be provided with the nozzle assembly 43 which in the illustrated embodiment includes a quick disconnect receiver 62 and a plurality of nozzles numbered consecutively with the reference numerals 63 – ~~68~~ 70. These nozzles 63 – ~~68~~ 70 each have properties for providing the spray 25 (Figure 1) with a different configuration. Thus, the user 34 need only change the nozzle coupled to the receiver 62 in order to change the pattern of the spray 25. It can be appreciated that with this type of system, it is desirable to provide all of the nozzles 63 – ~~68~~ 70 in a single ordered arrangement somewhere in proximity to the user 34 near the distal end of the delivery system 18. This is one of the purposes of the nozzle retainer 45 which in the embodiment of Figure 2 is disposed between the handle 36 and the elongate tube 38.

Please replace paragraph [0035] with the following amended paragraph:

[0035] The nozzles 63 – ~~68~~ 70 typically include a short coupling 72 with a cylindrical configuration and an annular recess 74, both adapted for receipt in the quick disconnect receiver 62. The cylindrical coupling 72 will typically extend distally to an orifice 76 which is surrounded by an enlargement 78.

Please replace paragraph [0036] with the following amended paragraph:

[0036] This retainer 45 is perhaps best illustrated in the front elevation view of Figure 3 and the enlarged side elevation view of Figure 4. From these views it can be seen that a preferred embodiment of the retainer 45 includes a base plate 81 which in

this case has a generally planar configuration. The base plate 81 is provided with a mounting aperture 83 and also with a plurality of holes (only one of which is illustrated in Figure 4 and designated by the reference numeral 85). The hole 85 is preferably filled with a rubber grommet 87 having flanges 91 and 93 which extend on opposite sides of the base plate 81. The diameter of the hole 85 and grommet 87 are chosen to facilitate the snug receipt of the cylindrical coupling 72 associated with one of the nozzles, such as the nozzle 63. Since these cylindrical coupling 72 for each of the nozzles 63 – ~~68~~ 70 will have the same diameter, holes similar to the hole 85 and grommets similar to the grommet 87 can be provided in an ordered arrangement on the base plate 81 in order to accommodate each of the nozzles 63 – ~~68~~ 70 when not in use.

Please replace paragraph [0037] with the following amended paragraph:

[0037] With reference to Figures 5 and 6, it will be appreciated that this snug relationship can be facilitated by forming the base plate 81 with a thickness which is generally equal to or smaller than the axial width of the annular groove 74 in the coupling 72. This will enable the grommet 87 to spread from its natural state illustrated in Figure 5 to its expanded state illustrated in Figure 6. With the flanges 91 and 93 free to expand radially, only that portion of the grommet 87 which is disposed inwardly of the hole 85 will be retained in its generally fixed diameter. With this structure, the nozzle, such as the nozzle 63, can be pushed into the grommet where it will tend to center with the annular groove 74 in the plane of the base 81. With the nozzle 63 thus retained, the enlargement 78 is spaced sufficiently from the base 81 that it can be easily engaged by the fingers of the user 34 for removal. In the embodiment of Figure 3 the attachment mechanism 82 includes the threaded proximal end of the tube 38 and the threaded orifice 61 associated with the handle 36.

Please replace paragraph [0038] with the following amended paragraph:

[0038] As noted, the retainer 45 can be disposed between the handle 36 and the elongate tube 38 of the wand 32 by an attachment mechanism 82. In this position, also

illustrated in the view of Figure 7, it can be appreciated that the base plate 81 may include portions ~~89~~ 87 which are easily accessible and therefore adapted for retention of the nozzles 63 – ~~68~~ 70. A portion of the base plate 81 is less accessible due to its proximity with the finger guard 54. This portion is designated by the reference numeral 90 in Figure 7. Preferably, the nozzle retainer 45 is mounted with this portion 90 disposed in closest proximity to the finger guard 54.

Please replace paragraph [0040] with the following amended paragraph:

[0040] In a further embodiment of the invention illustrated in Figures 10 and 11, the attachment mechanism 82 of the nozzle retainer 45 includes a pivot post 92 which can be attached to the grip 41 ~~elongate tube 38~~, for example by a band 94. As best illustrated in the top plan view of Figure 11, the base plate 81 of the nozzle retainer 45 ~~44~~ can be formed with all portions 87 accessible. In this case, the holes and grommet, such as the hole 85 and grommet 87 of Figure 4, can be equally angularly spaced around the circumference of the base plate 81. Importantly, the base plate 81 can be made to rotate on the pivot post 92 in order to facilitate access to a particular one of the nozzles 63 – ~~68~~ 70.

Please replace paragraph [0041] with the following amended paragraph:

[0041] In still a further embodiment, the nozzles 63 - 68 can be retained directly on the finger guard 54 as illustrated in Figure 12. In this embodiment holes, such as the hole 85, can be filled with an associated grommet, such as the grommet 87, and aligned along the finger guard 54. In the manner previously discussed, the nozzles 63 – ~~68~~ 70 can be removably retained on the finger guard 54 in proximity to the distal end 23 of the delivery system 18.

Please replace paragraph [0042] with the following amended paragraph:

[0042] Another aspect associated with the present invention is associated with the cleaning of the nozzles 63 – ~~68~~ 70. As noted, these nozzles will typically have a very small orifice 76 (Figure 2) through which the fluid is expelled in a predetermined pattern. Any debris carried in the fluid flow tends to collect in the nozzle 74 upstream of the orifice 76.

Please replace paragraph [0043] with the following amended paragraph:

[0043] In accordance with the present invention, a cleaning tool is provided with the same general configuration as the nozzles 63 – ~~68~~ 70. Thus, a nozzle cleaner 96 may include a cylindrical coupling 98, similar to the coupling 72, and an associated annular recess 101 similar to the recess 74. A circular carrier 103 can be fixed to the cylindrical coupler 98 and molded to retain a cleaning pin 105. Since the pin 105 will have a very small diameter, it may be desirable to provide a guard 107 to cover the pin 105 when it is not in use. The guard 107 can form a dome over the pin 105 and carrier 103, as illustrated in Figure 13. When it is desired to use the nozzle cleaner 96, the guard 107 can be pivoted on a living hinge 110 to expose the pin 105. It may be desirable to retain the guard 107 in this pivoted open position using a detent 112 between the carrier 103 and guard 107.

Please replace paragraph [0044] with the following amended paragraph:

[0044] By providing the nozzle cleaner 96 with a configuration similar to that of the nozzles 63 – ~~68~~ 70, the cleaner 96 can also be releasably held by the nozzle retainer 45.